

Year 2002!

It's the 13th anniversary of A-Kon™. Be prepared for the best weekend of anime & entertainment ever!

Hotel Basic Info:

We're back at the Hyatt Regency-DFW at the DFW International Airport between Dallas and Ft. Worth. New renovations have allowed us to use the space once again. Hyatt DFW has plenty of sleeping space for us, and although the meeting space is somewhat tight given our size, we feel we can give the fans the best bang for their buck at this facility.

GETTING THERE: Once in the DFW Airport, the hotel is located at Terminal C. There is only one tower now, so follow the signs. Free shuttles exist to take you from terminals to the hotel. Phones in Baggage Claim areas will call the shuttles.

PARKING: Use any lot you like. The Hyatt has its own garage, but if it fills, the Terminal C parking lot is the next closest. The hotel will validate parking – even if you have to park in the infield or outer lots and take the airtrans or shuttles in (all these are free). For those staying overnight, validation is available at the front check-out desk. For single day members, validation is available at the concierge desk in the lobby. Valet parking is available for \$13/day, but there are limited spaces.

PARTY PEOPLE: Make sure you ask for an 'ACTIVE' or 'QUIET' floor when you check in, so we don't get noise complaints and you don't have your party shut down.

ROOMS: Price is \$105 per night for 1-4 people (2 double beds), plus tax. King beds are also available. You can split expenses with friends and make it cheaper per person, if you desire. (if you have more than 4 people, well, the rooms have good floor space! Just don't tell the hotel!) Call 972-453-1234 for reservations and be sure to mention A-Kon to get the con rate, and to insure we get your room credited to our block! **NOTE:** The Hotel's National Online system does not recognize our block (it's flaky), and you can't get a room using it. Call the hotel directly.

Dealers Rooms (We have 2 this year!):

We are totally **SOLD OUT** and have a waiting list! With 155 tables in the rooms, we have slightly more space than last year. We have an amazing selection of anime and eclectic merchandise in the rooms that you won't want to miss! Make sure to visit both rooms to see ALL the vendors!

Art Show/Auction:

A \$5 per-panel fee (+10% of any sales) gets you a 4'x4' panel space. For full info and entry instructions send email to artshow@a-kon.com. Forms can be downloaded from the artshow's webpage. There will be an auction of fine art on Saturday evening (possibly rescheduled to Sunday afternoon, TBA-watch the website) where you can buy pieces from your favorite artists, so watch for it and bid early.

Model & Miniature Building Show/Contest:

All models are welcome (any reasonable scale) to compete. (This is for original models & kits only.) Limit is 3 entries in 3 different categories. Entry is done on-site and is free. Pick up forms at the Advanced Visual Designs table in the dealers room. Judging will be done on Saturday afternoon by AVD. Look for detailed info on our web page.

Panels & Events:

Will include speaker Q&As, karaoke, writing seminars, art classes & demos, cosplay classes,

talks from the stars, autograph sessions, industry panels and a multitude of other events and several different tracks of programming. There is no reason to be bored at A-Kon! There is plenty to learn & do!

Charity Auction:

Benefitting the American Cancer Society, in honor of many A-Kon staff, friends and family that have succumbed to this dread disease, donated items will be available for viewing until Sat. evening, with the auction to be held **Sunday afternoon** (possibly changed to Sat nite, TBA). Hosted by Helen McCarthy.

Video Rooms:

We have 3 big rooms with projection screens and great sound systems. Some really special surprises, courtesy of our industry guests, may also show up! We don't advertise the schedule ahead of time since so much happens last-minute and schedule changes are too numerous. Rest assured it'll be a virtual visual video feast! **Alternative** videos will be running in the Kon Suite.

J-POP Room:

Will be held in the **Brighton Tap Room** on the lobby floor this year. With TV screens, a dance floor, as well as pool tables and an upstairs lounge area, there will be J-Pop/J-Rock videos and concert footage shown throughout the weekend, as well as visits from our guest band **Duel Jewel!** Presented by **DJ PopTart & Radio Wasabi**. (**NOTE:** The restaurant IS a Bar & Grill and will check IDs for anyone who wishes to buy alcohol, but will serve food & sodas to anyone who enters.) You don't have to be 21 to go in here (we had to fight for this ability-please be responsible to your fellow con-goers & respect the drinking age laws. In Texas it's 21 and there is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy in effect for any underage drinking anywhere at the Kon. Don't jeopardize A-Kon or your friends by behaving badly about this.)

Sunday Banquet With The Stars

This is a chance for you to share a more intimate moment with the visiting stars of A-Kon. **Banquet Ticket holders will be able to make their table selections ON-SITE at the info desk prior to Sunday**, so we will know which guests have arrived and will attend. Seats are limited so get in soon! We'll be showing the fan video contest winners, short film and special surprises. The banquet is an additional \$28 and is scheduled from **11:30 AM-1:30 PM Sunday**. Entertainment will also be provided by the **Sun String Quartet**, fans & Kon staff who actually play in a pro quartet and have re-written anime themes for strings. They really add class to the place!

Fan Video Contest

Entries have been received and the judging will begin soon. For more info contact video@a-kon.com. Winners will be played and announced at the Kon and at the Banquet on Sunday.

Welcoming Ceremony featuring Kobushi Taiko and DUEL JEWEL:

We welcome you to the show, introduce the guests, and give you last-minute info that you may need to know. **Kobushi Taiko** will be performing, followed by a concert by J-Rock band **DUEL JEWEL & a J-Pop Dance! 8pm, Main programming Friday night!** Be there!

A-KonTV

In your hotel rooms, expect to see delayed viewings of major events, company information, new-release coming attractions, live reports, and other exciting news items.

24-hr Gaming

NOTE: Due to space conflicts, the RPGA will not be hosting games at A-Kon this year. Contact gaming@a-kon.com for more info. Some (not all) games have small admission fees to cover costs of prizes, etc. In addition to games and demos from **Valkyrie Games** and **Maximum CNG**, we'll welcome Live Action RPGs including: **Vampire, Animania** and **Nemesis**.

Card Games will be played also, including the new **Dragonball CCG**. More info later. Fan participation games **Anime Match Game, Anime Squares, Anime You Don't Know Jack**, and **AniName That Tune** will also be there.

The Mechwarrior's Guild will host **Battletech**. **D&D** will also play. We have a 24-hr fan hosted **Net-Computer Gaming Room (KAOS Room)** and a **Console Gaming (PSX, X-Box, DreamCast, etc.)** room will be sponsored by **GAMESTOP**, complete with tournaments and prizes!

DDR 6th MIX should also be available at A-Kon 13™, as will other versions of this popular dance game, and possibly other games of this style, depending on what we can find available.

Japanimayhem will play at A-Kon™ 13 of course! It's a 13 year tradition!

Komik Market

Tables for artists, fanclubs, small press and individuals are placed in the lower level gallery between main programming and the Dealers rooms. A-Kon Komik Market is named in honor of the Comiket (Comic Market) in Japan. Tables are 6 ft. x 18 in. and are available for \$30 for the weekend. **NOTE:** Komik Market tables do NOT include free Kon memberships-you must still purchase a regular Kon membership. For more info contact phoenixmojo@aol.com. To sign up for a table, go to the website and **FILL OUT THE FORM** so we get you properly placed and your table secured.

KosPlay

Presented in Main Programming **Saturday at 7pm**. There is a stage and seating to accommodate about 1000. There will be prizes – CASH, merchandise donated from our vendors and trophies to grace your shelves!

Rules: Fill out an entry form at the Kon and return it to the proper place (WHERE will be in the instruction sheet and on the website); **No more than 1 entry per person**. Also there is a cap on entries – **we will only have 60 entrants this year**. Attend the walk-thru for rehearsal; make sure your music, props, etc. are provided and instructions are clear; Have Fun!

Also roaming the hall are disguised judges, selecting the best **Hall Costumes**, for those who are too shy to appear on stage. For more info: cosplay@a-kon.com.

Dance & Dance Contest:

Head out **Saturday night, 10:30 pm** and be ready to rock in Main Programming! If you have special requests, let us know about them way ahead of time to give us a chance to get the disk! Be prepared for a hot time as **Radio Free Oz (RFO)** returns to host a great dance. Cash bar will be available (bring ID) for your refreshment needs. **The Dance Contest Rules:** Dance all the songs. Judges will be looking for the best overall dancers, best couples and a number of other 'fun' awards they come up with on the spot. Winners get cool trophies and prizes!

Kon Hospitality Suite:

We again offer a room for light snacks where you can snack, visit, read, or watch alternative videos. We don't want our fans to starve!

Hours of the Kon:

Pre-Registered: can pick up packets starting Thursday from 6-10 pm, then any time when Registration is open. **Regular Registration Hours** Friday: 10am-8pm, Saturday: 9am-7pm, Sunday: 9am-3pm. **Dealers Room:** Friday: 11am-7pm Saturday: 10am-6pm, Sunday: 11am-5pm. **Video Rooms & the Rest of the Kon:** Open 11am on Friday and run non-stop until Sunday at 6 pm! At least one video room will start on Thursday night, for your viewing pleasure, so we are actually doing a 3 1/2 day show!

Anything else you want to know

Drop us a line at: **Project: A-Kon, 3352 Broadway Blvd. #470, Garland, TX 75043** Read The Often Updated Web Page at : www.a-kon.com Email us at: info@a-kon.com.

NOTE: Grapevine Mills Mall is off Hwy 121, NOT Hwy 114 as listed in Food directions Paragraph 2. Sorry.

Food situation at the Airport:

The hotel is working on providing 24-hr food service so there is no need to leave the premises if you don't have a vehicle. There is Papayas (the buffet restaurant), Brighton Tap Room (which, in addition to being our J-Pop room, serves beverages, sandwiches, burgers, chicken, pasta and other foods) and a concession stand will be provided for fast, affordable foods (sandwiches, hot dogs, chili, nachos, salads, ice cream, cokes, tea, coffee, chips, cookies, etc.) The hotel will also have room service available. Unfortunately, with the new security measures in place since 9-11, the restaurants in Terminal C are not accessible to the general public due to their location behind the security checkpoints.

Restaurants in the Nearby Area include:

By Grapevine Mills Mall (take North airport exit and head northwest on Hwy 114 about 1/2 mile-it's nearly visible from the airport): Fuddruggers, On The Border, TGI Friday's, Big Buck's Steakhouse, the food court at the Mall itself, Burger King, Chili's and many other fast food and casual dining outlets.

Going out the north entrance of the airport, take I-635 heading east toward Dallas. There are several restaurants along the way and a restaurant row near MacArthur Blvd exit, including Taco Bell, Denny's, Razoo's, Outback Steakhouse, and other restaurants (Sam's, Walmart, Office Depot and grocery stores are also off of MacArthur within 1/4 mile N and S of I-635)

Going out the south entrance of the airport on I-183 toward Dallas there are several restaurants lining 183 all the way toward Irving Mall including Chinese buffets, Bennigan's, and at BeltLine Rd (by Irving Mall) there is Outback Steakhouse, Black Eyed Pea, Hooter's, and many other fast food and more casual dining.

Most of these food outlets are within 5 miles of the hotel. We hope to have actual available maps shortly (or good solid listings) and to post them on the website and have them available at the Kon.

DALLAS / FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

